

Contributions

NOT GOOD NEWS

C. H. WETHERBE

There is a small, worthy publication called "Good News," printed by an annihilationist, which makes a business of trying to demonstrate the notion that there is no such a thing as "endless misery," or eternal punishment. This little sheet would have its readers believe that it is "good news" to be told that not a soul will ever suffer endless misery on account of one's sins, no matter how persistently he may sin, even up to his last moment on earth. The advocates of this notion want all sinners to banish from their minds the idea that anybody will be "tortured" eternally after leaving this world. They tell sinners not to be afraid of the "dogma of eternal punishment," for it is only an invention of superstitious people in the "dark ages" of the world. But it is not "good news" which consists in the devil's lies. The old devil made our grandma Eve believe that he had "good news" for her when he said that what God told her about the result of eating the fruit of the forbidden tree was not true. The devil did not tell her outright that God lied, for that might so startle Eve that she would not believe the devil; but he really meant such a thing. He managed to say that she need not be afraid of any bad consequences in eating that fruit, notwithstanding what God had said. God had declared that if Adam and Eve ate of that tree they would die, but the devil said that they would not die, and he made Eve believe that this was "good news." And now the advocates of annihilation are trying to make people believe that death means the total extinction of all sinners who shall die unsaved. They cannot deny the truth that sinners will die, but they put meanings to the word which are perfectly agreeable to the devil, for he is not at all particular as to whether sinners are made to believe that death means merely the suffering out of their existence, or that God is so good that he will take all men directly to heaven, without regard to spiritual condition. What the devil is most concerned about is to have sinners believe that there is no "eternal" suffering, no "hell torment." And if satan can get professed Christians to convince the ungodly that there is no such punishment awaiting them he is as happy as it is possible for a devil to be. But Christ spoke the truth when he said of the unrepentant ones who shall persist in sin, "These shall go away into eternal punishment." Heed the warning!

THE SURRENDERED LIFE

E. L. HILDEBRAND

During the Spanish American war when our vessels sighted a ship that contained contraband of war goods; they signaled them to stop and if no reply was given a shot was fired across the enemy's bow which generally brought them to, for they knew the next would in all likelihood sink them. When their colors were pulled down the war ship came

along side and sent a pilot and crew on board the vessel to take charge of it and run it to our nearest port where it was searched and finally disposed of.

The moment the prize crew came aboard the former crew ceased to have any authority over its ship. The stars and stripes with the entire American nation behind it was supreme on board and the former crew were prisoners of war subject to the orders of the prize crew.

Think on the analogy. You are out on life's high seas. God knows your bark contains contraband of war goods, pride, envy, hatred, lust, malice, covetousness, jealousy, etc., materials used in satan's warfare. God thru the Holy Spirit signals you to stop. You heed it not, then he fires across your bow some trial or great solid shot of truth, when you pull down your colors and possibly try to make terms but God demands unconditional surrender and you finally say, yes I submit. (A critical period, will you remain a prisoner or become a subject.)

He sends a pilot and prize crew aboard to run your vessel. He chains up the sins that so easily beset it, the surrender is from the heart, and hoists the white flag of purity, liberty and life. You are not your own, but are free indeed. He supplies all your needs, cares for your soul and promises to deliver you safe into the haven of eternal rest.

You discover that instead of an enemy you are in the hands of a friend who rules with love, you rejoice in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ. The transition from being a prisoner to being a subject becomes easy and your adopted country becomes a home of peace and happiness because Jesus is pilot. The Holy Spirit is comforter and God is your Father.

HEART BEAUTY

GEO. C. CARPENTER

There is so much difference between inward beauty and that outward appearance alone which is termed beauty. The indwelling Christ gives outward loveliness to both soul and character, which manifests itself in various ways. "If Christ be within the heart, the family, or the church, the fact will be known abroad. Tho the rose is not seen, its fragrance is perceived. Its glitter betrays the presence of gold. Clouds cannot conceal the sun for the daylight declares its ascendancy." Just so the presence of Christ in any life can not be hid. Little self-denials, words of sympathy, acts of kindness, these are the "simple threads of gold" which gleam out so brightly. The life always occupied with high and pure and noble things will grow beautiful and become a medium for transmitting to others a love for the good; just as a spring brims over with refreshing waters that has a hidden source.

We often meet some person whom we call beautiful, but whose beauty soon fades because his or her life lacks in modesty, in dignity, in purity of thought and speech, in gentleness and kindness. Such a life falls far short of what God intended it to be.

Some one has truly said that with the advent of every life into this world, is born a place to be occupied, a mission to be fulfilled. God will work mightily with one whose noble purpose is to do the things that please Him. How beautiful will be the character formed! Such a character will endure, and the inward heart beauty will be reflected in the countenances, in the smiles and the tears, in the joys and the sorrows, in the words and the deeds.

CONTENTMENT

GEO. S. GRIM

Few things in this life are of greater importance than contentment. Indeed a contented spirit is a divine inheritance. No matter how God situates us in this world we should be contented. When it is not a natural gift it can be acquired, for one discontented person can upset a hundred. There is no part of our nature which has more to do with our happiness than contentment, and if nature has not given it to that extent, it is our prime duty to cultivate and develop it. No matter what we undertake, and however difficult, if we persevere we come out victorious. So if we practice contentment in our daily life we will find it more easy after a while. If we see a contented person continually have this spirit abiding in the heart, we can more readily appreciate it. The contentment of one person can throw a calm over many discontented minds. Therefore, it is an established fact that contentment promotes the well being of us while we go thru life when it is made practicable. Why then postpone it for one day? We can really make things go wrong by being continually discontented, and by continuing to go wrong with these little things just because we have a discontented spirit developed into a habit, and as a result thru this discontented habit great wrong things will come.

Louisville, Ohio.

Home Circle

What a Boy Can Do

"What can a boy do, anyway,"
I ask—"what grand and great?"
Listen a moment, lad, I pray,
And three things I will state.

A boy can make the world more bright,
By kindly word and deed;
As blossoms call for nature's light,
So hearts love's sunshine need.

A boy can make the world more pure,
By lips kept ever clean;
Silence can influence shed as sure
As speech—oft more doth mean.

A boy can make the world more true,
By an exalted aim;
Let one a given end pursue,
Others will seek the same.

Full simple things, indeed, these three,
Thus stated in my rhyme;
Yet what, dear lad, could greater be—
What grander, more sublime?

—*Christian Observer.*